

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS  
MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 16, 2008*

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, a society cannot function properly without a means to enforce its laws and protect itself. However, we know all too well that safety and security does not come without a price. National Peace Officers Memorial Day was established to honor the men and women who have paid that price and I rise today to pay tribute to the one hundred and eighty-one federal, state and local law enforcement officers who gave their lives in 2007.

Sadly, Florida lost sixteen officers last year, two of which were from central Florida. On April 13th, Lieutenant Delmar Teagan of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission died in an automobile accident in Polk County. Then, on August 15th, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Sergeant Ronald Harrison was killed by a gunman in Brandon, Florida.

These officers provided communities with safety and security and we are indebted to their service. Like so many of our nation's law enforcement officers willing to work in harm's way, Lieutenant Teagan and Sergeant Harrison are true heroes.

Since 1962, National Peace Officers Memorial Day has been observed on May 15th. This is a time when thousands of law enforcement officers descend upon our Nation's capital to remember and honor their fallen colleagues. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with these men and women as they gather to recognize the officers who died in the line of duty while serving the people of this great Nation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419,  
FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND EN-  
ERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Although I support many of the provisions included in the legislation before us today, I continue to oppose elements of the commodity title, which fall short of adequate reform. I have long opposed policy inequities in farm law that have resulted in large subsidies going to a few, mostly larger entities, leaving many small and family farms behind, including those in the state of Delaware. Under this legislation, millionaires will still be able to collect subsidies, even with the implementation of a means test, and direct payments are only cut by a minimal amount at a time when farm income is expected to reach a record high. Instead, we should be working toward maintaining an adequate safety net for farmers when food prices drop.

Addressing this issue would bring down the cost of the overall legislation. Conferees working on H.R. 2419 have used last year's base-

line to score the bill, thereby avoiding pay-as-you-go-rules, in order to hide a \$2.9 billion increase in the deficit. It is clear to me that these issues need to be addressed before moving forward with this legislation.

With that said, I am pleased that H.R. 2419 would increase funding for many of Delaware's priorities, including an additional \$7.9 billion for conservation programs. Specifically, I support funding for the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, which would be doubled above current levels to provide the necessary resources to prevent farmland from conversion into non-agricultural usage. Critical funding of \$400 million would also be provided to aid producers in reducing run-off, improve water quality, and restore the wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay, a project that I strongly support.

This farm bill would also make significant boosts to nutrition programs of \$10.4 billion over current levels, including school nutrition programs, and expands the number of families eligible for food stamp assistance. This legislation provides increased assistance to food banks at a time when many Americans are struggling to pay their monthly bills. Funds would also be authorized to provide relief to those facing hunger around the world.

Furthermore, investments in energy are also included in this conference agreement as the ethanol tax credit is reduced, and instead, the tax credit for cellulosic energy production is increased which may alleviate some of the pressure corn-based ethanol has placed on food prices. With initiatives like these, we are working toward real alternatives to fossil fuels and moving one step closer to decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels.

While I do support many of the provisions in H.R. 2419 and feel that conferees have made significant strides toward a compromise farm agreement, the commodity title has been left without substantial reform, resulting in costs to the American taxpayer. I look forward to working with my colleagues to address these issues.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE  
FILL SUSPENSION AND CON-  
SUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protect Act of 2008.

With gas prices at record highs and fast-approaching \$4 per gallon, our constituents are suffering. There are many factors contributing to the rise in prices—ranging from increased global demand, to wild speculation in the futures market, to the weakening dollar. Unfortunately Congress does not have the power to control all these factors. We do, however, have a responsibility to take what steps we can to lessen the burden that the price of gas has on our constituents. That is why I support suspending shipments of oil to the SPR.

The SPR is almost entirely full, and certainly full enough to be used in an emergency. By stopping shipments of oil to the reserve, we can add 70,000 barrels of oil per day to the

global market. There is evidence to show that this could lower at-the-pump prices by about a quarter per gallon. This action is a much needed first step for American families, businesses and the economy.

The supply of oil is finite, and as countries like China and India industrialize, and incomes in such countries enable people to afford cars, the demand on this limited commodity will drive prices upward in the long run. If our economy is to make a full recovery, we must reduce our dependence on ever more expensive and environmentally detrimental fossil fuels. That is why the Democratic 110th Congress raised CAFE standards for the first time in a generation and the House has time and again voted to remove subsidies for oil companies making the highest corporate profits in history and reinvest the money in the energy sources of tomorrow. What America really needs is a wholesale shift in energy policy.

I would like to thank the House leadership for bringing this important legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419,  
FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND EN-  
ERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great reluctance to oppose the bill before us, H.R. 2419. After more than a year of negotiations, this is heralded as the best compromise that this Congress could come to. But with commodity prices through the roof, this bill rejects the opportunity to make a difference and instead subsidizes millionaires making up to \$2.5 million. It makes only a cosmetic cut at best to direct payments at a time when some farmers are receiving record prices for their commodity crops.

Taxpayer dollars are not Monopoly money yet this \$300 billion bill treats them as such and at a time when middle-class families are feeling the pinch at the pump and the grocery store and the college admission office that is simply unconscionable.

Additionally, this bill creates a permanent disaster program that is costly, unnecessary, and bureaucratic. The federal government already pays for (1) crop insurance to assist farmers when a crop fails, (2) counter-cyclical payments when prices drop, (3) marketing loans to allow farmers to finance a crop and guarantee a price, and (4) Direct Payments for no particular reason. Adding a whole new program to these existing programs is simply wasteful.

Mr. Speaker, simply put: This is not a farm bill. This is not a bill that provides a safety net for community farmers that need our help. This is not a bill that addresses the skyrocketing costs of farm products that struggling families experience every day. This bill is business as usual Washington-style.

Our agricultural policies are in desperate need of commonsense improvements and this bill fails to deliver. We should reject this bill that does nothing to support family farmers and go back to the drawing board for real reform.